'Education for minorities', in the Action Plan of the New Education Policy;

(b) the names of the States in which Hindus and other non-Muslim communities are respectively in minority; and

(c) what are the names of the districts in these States where the above mentioned communities are respectively considered dominating according to the same criteria and what is the Action Plan for them in each of these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) In a paper presented in the Seminar on 'Education of Minorities' organised by the Minorities Commission sizeable educationally backward sections were found to exist among the Muslims. The list of 40 districts was included illustratively on the basis of sizeable Muslim population. The States have been requested to identify such educationally backward sections among other minorities and add to the list of districts. The heading to the Appendix to Chapter XIV on 'Minorities Education' in the Programme of Action was given inadvertently and steps are being taken to change it.

Mushrooming of Sub-standard Medical Colleges in the country

863. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the continuous deterioration in health and medical education in the country and the extent to which the mushrooming of sub-standard medical colleges is responsible for deterioration in the health and medical education; and

(b) if so, what measures are contemplated by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The Medical Council of India, a statutory body charged with the responsibility of maintaining standards of medical education in the country has been striving hard to maintain the minimum standards of medical education in the country. However, some medical colleges have been established without the approval of the Medical Council of India. In order to put a stop to the mushrooming of substandard medical colleges, it is proposed to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 making it obligatory to obtain prior permission of the Council/Central Government before opening a new medical college and arming the Council with adequate powers to enforce standards of medical education.

Test-tube Baby in the country

864. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of experiments that have been conducted in the country to produce test-tube babies and what is the percentage of success;

(b) whether before embarking upon the technology, Government have considered the vital issues like medical hazards, effect on the health of women undergoing the experiments and, above all, social and psychological effect involved especially in the Indian society;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to commercialise the technology; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) So far only one successful pregnancy has been reported from the KEM Hospital, Bombay in August, 1986, Two other births of babies due to in-vitro fertilization have been claimed to be in process. The success rate as reported in other countries range from 10 to 30 per cent. In India, the experience is too small to give a percentage chance of success.

(b) and (c) So far in India in-vitro fertilization has been done in blocked fallopian tubes in the women using husband's sperms. Therefore, the social and psychological problem of surrogate mother do not exist at present. The procedure involves a minor surgery. The medical hazards of such a procedure are similar to any laparoscopic techniques. These are minor, rare and can be avoided. There is rare risk of abnormal eggs being fertilized, which can be avoided by regular monitoring of such women.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal at present.

Committee on preservation of precious Art Objects

865. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any committee to draw-up a list of precious art objects which will never be sent out of country for foreign exhibition;

(b) if so, what are the functions of the committee; and

(c) what other measures are being taken to ensure that the precious art objects which are sent abroad for exhibitions are not damaged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Two Committees namely, Expert Evaluation Committee and Conservation Committee have been set up for the selection of art objects for exhibitions. A compendium of such objects which will never be sent out of the country for foreign exhibition will be up-dated periodically.

(c) Great precaution is taken when the art objects are packed with the best quality packing material under the strict supervision of experts. Art objects are photographed from different angles for proper record at each stage. Each consignment when transported abroad is accompained by a courier at the time of sending and bringing them back to India. The art objects are also insured on "wall to wall" basis.

Cancer Drugs and Detection Centre in the country

866. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cancer detection centres with their locations in the country;

(b) whether there is a plan to set up new cancer detection centres and fully equipped hospitals in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any measures are being taken for making drugs for the treatment of cancer at reasonable prices available to the poor patients; and

..(e) if so, the details thereof? . . .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) There are 28 Early Cancer Detection Centres at places as shown in the Statement attached (*see* below). Besides, the Post Partum Pap Smear Testing Units and Regional Cancer Centres also provide cancer detection facilities.

(b) and (c) A provision of Rs. 2.00 lakhs has been made for the year